

NEW SENATE ORGANIZES AND GOES TO WORK--Robert Martin

In its first session on May 8 and 9, Faculty Senate IV showed great energy, decisiveness, and endurance. Several important items left over from Senate III were wrapped up.

The meeting began with the installation of the new senators and the election of officers. The officers are Don Bailey, Chair; Pat Bowen, Vice-Chair; Connie Foster, Secretary; and John Long, Parliamentarian. The members then met in caucus by committee to elect chairs of each committee. The new committee chairpersons are:

By-Laws, Amendments & Elections-Bill Leonard,
Academic Affairs-Joe Glaser,
Faculty Status & Welfare-Charles Henrickson,
Fiscal Affairs-Richard Cantrell,
Institutional Goals & Planning-Robert Blann,
Professional Responsibilities & Concerns-Joanne Powell,
Communications-Pauline Jones,
University Committees-Craig Taylor.



At the request of Senator Bailey, Tom Jones continued to direct the meeting, and the senate resumed its regular business of reports from committees.

The Senate confirmed the Executive Committee's nominations to the Search Committee for the Vice-President of Academic Affairs: Charles Ray, Joe Winstead and Richard Salisbury.

The Revised Rank & Promotion Policy (FSW 001.3 - 4/10/80) was accepted by a vote of 33 to 13, but only after five amendments were proposed and a lengthy appeal for the adoption of the policy was delivered by Senator Parks. One of these amendments was passed: years served, as well as degrees earned, may be waived as a consideration for promotion for those whose professional achievement and contribution to the university call for advancement.

Upon reconvening the following day, the Senate adopted the Academic Affairs Committee's report concerning the "54-Hour Rule." This report proposed a reduction of the Bachelor's Degree requirement to a minimum of 42 semester hours in courses numbered 300 or above, and a moratorium on further raising of course numbers until this degree requirement is acted upon.

Senator Wicklander reported his optimism for the success of the questionnaire project on equity in policies and procedures for employment, promotion, and tenure; about 100 responses had been received from the faculty.

Also accepted was the resolution of the Benefits Sub-Committee on Insurance, headed by Senator Rivers. This calls for collective bidding by potential carriers of our group health insurance, for voting membership of a person from the Faculty Senate on the University Insurance Committee, and for added benefits such as dental insurance.

NEW SENATE ORGANIZES AND GOES TO WORK

The Fiscal Affairs Committee's Report on University Revenues and Expenditure (008.1) was accepted with several amendments calling for deletions of part of the cover letter, two additions to the comments on the data, and the placement of the deletions at the end (rather than within) the accepted report.

The Senate voted to maintain the status and assignment of the ad hoc Committee on Faculty/Student Relations, and accepted Senator Long's report on the committee's efforts to promote settings for faculty-student communication outside the classroom.

Concerning the Administrator Evaluation, Senator Constans reported that 62 percent of the 700 evaluation forms have been returned. Jones was asked to continue serving this project.

There was then a formal investiture ceremony for the new officers, and Professor Jones passed the gavel to Senator Bailey, who conducted the new-business portion of the meeting.

Ed Dorman was elected to replace Lawrence Finley (on sabbatical) on the University Library Committee.

The Senate voted support of a resolution by Senator Glaser that the acquisition of scholarly publications must have a top priority if the university is to maintain a capability for academic excellence.

A resolution was passed authorizing Prof. Tom Jones to continue his activity in COSFL, another expressing gratitude to Steve West of Murray for his work on behalf of higher education.

It was announced that Senator Buckman is a candidate in this week's election of members to the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Teachers Retirement System. We were reminded that higher education badly needs representatives on this board.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR--Don Bailey

I wish to express my appreciation for the confidence placed in me by the Faculty Senate. In addition, I appreciate the excellent choices made for Senate officers, Executive Committee members, and standing committee chairpersons. My job as Senate chairman will be much easier with this kind of leadership to help.

The new Executive Committee has already met twice; we are definitely under way with Senate IV. Some changes in organization, procedure, etc. are forth-coming; however, Senate IV basically will be a continuation of and a building upon the fine work of previous senates.

I hope to make the position of Vice-Chairperson (Pat Bowen) a much more significant part of the Senate. John Long (Parliamentarian) is busily training and working to assist the officers in maximally serving the Senate and the faculty in general. And Connie Foster (Secretary-Treasurer) will be the right arm and the memory of Senate IV.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

In addition, it should be noted that Melna Hargan (student secretary) will be continuing to make all things possible for the Senate during the coming year.

The Executive Committee will be meeting this summer on a regular basis in order to be fully abreast of all developments important to the faculty. The Executive Committee will call at least one meeting of the Senate during the summer, and additional meetings will be called should developments necessitate. The faculty should recognize that Senate IV is alive and operational at all times (even in the summer) and ready to accept proposals, questions, etc.

I hope 1980-81 will be a good year for the Faculty Senate. Every department of the university has a representative on the Senate. That person is your representative--your primary line of communication--both from your department to the Senate and from the Senate to your department. May I suggest that you ask him/her to (1) bring your concerns to the attention of the Executive Committee (or Senate) and (2) report to you what the Senate is doing. I think that the latter is a very important but often overlooked role of the departmental senator.

Have a good summer.

NOTES FROM THE EX-CHAIR AND COSFL--Tom Jones

I am in the process of setting up a meeting of the Congress of Senate Faculty Leaders for July 12, 1980, here at Western. The agenda for that meeting is still forming, but off the top of my head I can think of the following that need to be dealt with:

ITEM: we need to undertake to study whether higher education members should remain in the Social Security System. If we conclude that it would be good for us to get out, then we need to study the question of how we might leave the system. Doubtless such a step would require a program of educating us as to why we should. That could be done on a statewide basis.

ITEM: we are now in the process of trying to get Bill Buckman elected as a member of the KTRS Board of Trustees. There has never been a trustee on that very important board who had ties to higher education--clearly a ridiculous situation. Let me then use this means to urge you all to return your ballots (which should have arrived by now, or soon) voting for Bill. Please do not do as many of you doubtless usually do and just throw them away! The other candidate (W.D. Bruce) has strong ties to secondary education, and we need representation on that board.

ITEM: we must develop a plan for the next legislative session. I think that we accomplished quite a bit during this session, but what might we do if we go at it planned.

NOTES FROM THE EX-CHAIR AND COSFL

* * *

Let me take this opportunity, too, to say congratulations to Don Bailey, and to express my confidence in him. I think the kid's in good hands: I had a lot of dealings with Don in his role as Chair of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee: he was always hard-working and organized, and I feel sure that he'll apply the same kind of energies to this new role. I look forward to working with Don as I continue to work with COSFL.

WHERE THE WORK IS DONE: ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES

The standing committees of the Senate here report on their activities during the past year, in a feature continued from the April issue of the Newsletter.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE--Joan Krenzin

The Executive Committee has met weekly throughout the year. At two meetings each month, the members of the Executive Committee are joined by the chairs of the standing committees.

The year's accomplishments for this group will probably not look very impressive on paper because the primary goal of this committee is to insure the smooth functioning of the Senate. Therefore, this committee serves as a sounding board for ideas of different individuals and groups. It listens to the issues before COSFL and voices approval, urges caution, or suggests changes; it examines products of committees before they reach the floor of the Senate, and it suggests questions that might be anticipated from Senators, points out ambiguities to be clarified, and voices kinds of opposition that may have to be dealt with; it listens to suggestions or grievances offered by committee members or gleaned from other faculty members, and it tosses the ideas around until they either fall through the sieve or coagulate into a ball that can be tossed to a standing committee.

Occasionally members of the Executive Committee have chosen to perform some task themselves when an appropriate committee chair has indicated that the issue might be placed at the bottom of a very long list facing that particular committee. Such was the case when the Executive Committee undertook the project of evaluating the performance of the Senate. Another task was a pilot study on satisfaction with University food services. There had been a complaint registered regarding the quality of food served on campus, but a pilot study indicating general satisfaction among the faculty caused the Senate to drop that study.

Specific activities of the Executive Committee have included:

- (1) Reporting to the Senate some information of general interest to the faculty, including facts learned by Tom Jones in his meetings with Dr. Zacharias

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (2) Arranging to have the minutes of the Faculty Senate and the Academic Council and copies of the Newsletter shelved in the library
- (3) Working with Vice President Davis in setting up a committee to work on the evaluation of the faculty by the students
- (4) Inviting Dr. Earl Wassom to discuss with the entire Senate the issue of cuts in library journals
- (5) Requesting all committees to elect or appoint secretaries so that some records will be available to future committees
- (6) Assigning new concerns to appropriate committees
- (7) Conducting an evaluation of the Faculty Senate
- (8) Proposing two new standing committees: Communications Committee and the Committee on University Committees
- (9) Improving the information included in the agenda sent out before meetings
- (10) Learning more about the legislative process
- (11) Assisting in the appointment of ad hoc committees
- (12) Appointing members of the Presidential Advisory Committee and the Search Committee for the Director of Development.

BY-LAWS, AMENDMENTS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE--Linda Pulsinelli

During the 1979-80 academic year, the BAE Committee considered several Constitutional changes. Although some alterations suggested by Senators (removal of at-large designation and change in make-up of the Executive Committee) were not recommended by this committee, there were six changes which were approved by the Faculty Senate.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| BAE 002.1 | (8/30/79) Grants ex-officio Senate membership to the President of the University. |
| BAE 003.1 | (8/30/79) Clarifies the wording of requirements for a special session of the Senate. |
| BAE 004.1 | (8/30/79) Calls for Senate re-organization in May. |
| BAE 005.1 | (11/8/79) Creates a standing Committee on University Committees (UC). |
| BAE 006.1 | (11/8/79) Creates a standing Communications Committee (CC). |
| BAE 007.1 | (4/10/80) Adds a Rule on Committee Continuity to the Senate Constitution. |

BY-LAWS, AMENDMENTS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Of these documents, BAE 004.1 was perhaps the most difficult to prepare, since it dealt with a matter which had been under consideration for several years. The process which was finally devised calls for college caucuses for committee assignment immediately following the spring election and election of all Senate officers at the May meeting. As of May, 1980, the response to this new procedure has been very favorable, but only future senates can decide whether the change was a worthwhile one.

In addition to these constitutional matters, the BAE Committee conducted the Senate elections in February and attempted to keep the eligibility lists as current as possible throughout the year.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of a hard-working committee, our business has proceeded smoothly even during the most hectic times. Since several members have agreed to continue serving on the BAE Committee, I anticipate an equally successful session during the 1980-81 school year.

INSTITUTIONAL GOALS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE--Mary Ellen Miller

In September, 1979, the Institutional Goals and Planning Committee presented the Senate with the second half of its report on enrollment. This follow-up report was presented for the Senate's information. We requested all Senators to circulate the report among their constituents. Responses were invited. Several useful responses (additional suggestions on recruitment and retention) were received, and we forwarded these to the appropriate administrative officers.

In November, Senator Bryce Combs gave a presentation on Western's public service TV spots. We asked that Senators send us written comments on the effectiveness of these and that they send suggestions for additions. None did.

The Senate (in February) heard our report on the advantages and disadvantages of a fall break (a report prepared by Senators Fred Clark and John Jones). No action was taken.

We presented the Lucas motion recommending elected chairships to replace our present system of department heads. The motion was defeated. In December, we recommended that the University grant no honorary degrees without Senate approval. This motion, prepared by Senators William Neel and Don Rowe, was defeated.

On April 7, we met with Dr. Robert Sexton, recently appointed Director for Planning and Analysis for the Council on Higher Education. Senator Robert Blann organized this lunch meeting. Dr. Sexton has been employed by the Council to conduct a survey and prepare a report on Kentucky's higher education needs for the next two decades. The IGP Committee plans to maintain the closest possible contact with this project.

INSTITUTIONAL GOALS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Another on-going IGP effort is our preliminary survey of college needs for endowed chairs, in-residency appointments, special workshops, and lectureships that might be funded by private sources. At the moment we have heard from all colleges except two. The results of our survey will be given to the new director of development when he/she takes office in August.

Our committee faces its new year with Senators Buckman, Combs, Neel, and Miller retiring. Senators Blann, Clark, and Jones remain on the Committee, and newly elected members are Penny Harrison, Michael Klein, and Ruby Meador.

Communications Committee--Robert Martin

During the year we have produced nine Newsletters on the business and issues of the Faculty Senate. New this year were the series profiling the colleges on our campus, and the section "Questions I've Always wanted to ask." We are pleased that the committee was moved to the status of standing committee. Beginning next fall, we will open a new section: "What I would do if I were president of WKU." You have the whole summer to think about a submission.

FACULTY STATUS AND WELFARE COMMITTEE--Charles Henrickson

Because of the diversity of concerns that come under the domain of the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee, a system of subcommittees exists so that several items can be studied in depth at the same time.

A lengthy effort by the Tenure and Promotion Subcommittee, (Senators Ron Veenker, Mary Crisp and Connie Foster) resulted in the acceptance of the Rank and Promotion document (FSW 001.3) by the full Senate at its May meeting. It will be forwarded to the administration for consideration. Each departmental senator has a copy of the document for your perusal.

Senator David Rivers, the sole member of the Subcommittee on University Insurance and Benefits, organized, in conjunction with others, three open, informational meetings with three health insurance carriers. Representatives of Blue Cross-Blue Shield, Prudential, and Metropolitan Life described their insurance programs and the nature of program funding. Dental insurance was also discussed. The information gathered at these meetings resulted in a resolution (FSW 007.1) that was passed at the May Senate meeting which requests the administration to institute a competitive bidding procedure for the health insurance contract, and to institute a dental insurance plan. Blue Cross-Blue Shield recently announced that the planned rate increase for the coming academic year has been canceled.

The Salaries Subcommittee (Senators Jim Parks and Joan Krenzin) presented an updated comprehensive analysis of salaries (FSW 005.1) at the March Senate Meeting. Copies are available from your departmental senator.

FACULTY STATUS AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The Experience Credit and Academic Credit Earned Subcommittee (Senators Dale Wicklander and James Bingham) has completed a survey (FSW 006.1) of the faculty to learn of the nature and extent of problems associated with receiving credit for previous work experience. The results of the survey along with appropriate recommendations will be presented to the Senate next fall.

Senator Georg Bluhm is the Alternatives for Seeking Higher Salaries Subcommittee. Georg has surveyed a number of unionized faculties to determine if real benefits are provided by the collective bargaining process. Georg will report to the Senate next fall.

In March, Senator Jim Parks stepped down as chair of the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee after a lengthy tenure in that capacity. All members of the committee wish to express appreciation to Jim for his enthusiasm and excellent leadership.

A REQUEST--Pauline Jones

This issue of the Newsletter is both the last from the outgoing Communications Committee and the first from the new one, because its production spanned the transition from Senate III to Senate IV. The new committee has already begun planning for next year, and we'd like your suggestions for making the Newsletter as useful as possible to the faculty. We hope to have fuller reports of committee activities, and we plan to publish summaries (at least) of all resolutions that are considered on the Senate floor. What else would you like to see? Please send suggestions to Pauline Jones, Dept. of English, Cherry Hall -- or call me.

SENATE PHONE BUSY? TRY ANOTHER LINE

A second phone has been installed in the Faculty Senate office; the new number is 2964. If that one is busy, try the old one: 5325.

QUESTIONS I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK

Why is the Library's catalogue so out-of-date? I can never find any new books in it.

Did any of us put more effort into our teaching this semester expecting a student evaluation?

Have you talked to your Senator lately?

From: Faculty Senate

To: Dr. Donald Zacharias
Office of the President
WAB 1

FS

FACULTY SENATE
communications committee
NEWSLETTER